

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1929

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN, CY
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS ISSUE WITH TURKISH-CYPRIOT
"FOREIGN MINISTER"

1. COUNSELOR OF DEPARTMENT AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR HAD LONG, INFORMAL CONVERSATION IN NEW YORK JUNE 13 WITH TURKISH-CYPRIOT "FOREIGN MINISTER" VEDAT CHELIK. AMBASSADOR JAMES LEONARD AND USUN OFFICER ALSO PARTICIPATED IN PART OF SESSION DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON UNFICYP RENEWAL (SEPTELS).

2. ONCE CHELIK HAD OUTLINED HIS POSITION ON TEXT OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION CENTERED ON FUTURE OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. CHELIK BEGAN WITH STANDARD COMPLAINTS AND JUDGMENTS: (A) US INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS PLAYED INTO HANDS OF GREEK-CYPRIOTS, STIFFENING THEIR RESISTANCE TO REALISTIC SOLUTIONS, AND GIVING THEM A FALSE HOPE THAT WESTERN PRESSURE WOULD FORCE TURKS TO KNUCKLE UNDER; (B) IT WILL BE EASIER FOR TURKS TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY AFTER -- NOT BEFORE -- US ARMS EMBARGO
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IS LIFTED; (C) NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE COULD OCCUR IN ANY EVENT BEFORE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS INSTALLED IN ANKARA; AND (D) TURKISH-CYPRIOTS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE WHILE GREEK-CYPRIOTS MAINTAINED "BLOCKADE" AGAINST NORTHERN CYPRUS ECONOMY.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS PATIENTLY EXPLAINED THAT US

INTEREST IN CYPRUS SOLUTION WOULD CONTINUE AND THAT US INVOLVEMENT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST INTERESTS OF TURKISH-CYPRIOTS. US DID NOT OPPOSE BIZONAL SOLUTION IN WHICH TURKISH COMMUNITY HAS AUTONOMY AND FULL SECURITY. NOR DID WE SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT. OUR SOLE CONCERN WAS THAT IT COMMAND THE AGREEMENT OF THE TWO PARTIES. WE BELIEVED RESOLUTION OF BOTH THE TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WAS POSSIBLE IN 1977, AND WHILE WE WERE PREPARED TO MARK TIME UNTIL NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED, THIS INTERVAL NEED NOT BE WASTED. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS THEN REVIEWED WHAT TURKISH-CYPRIOTS MIGHT DO WITH RESPECT TO EXPANDING AND AMPLIFYING THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS, TOUCHING ON SOME OF POINTS MADE EARLIER TO CHELIK (STATE 91864). ULTIMATE TURKISH-CYPRIOT AIM MIGHT BE TO DEVELOP FULL DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

4. CHELIK AGREED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD EXPAND ON DOCUMENT IT HAD TABLED IN VIENNA IN APRIL. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, HE ADMITTED, WAS AT CORE OF TURKISH-CYPRIOT CONCERNS, BECAUSE IT TOUCHED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON QUESTIONS OF SECURITY, ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION AND AUTONOMY. WHEN CHELIK ASKED WHETHER US HAD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA TO PUT FORWARD, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED IF TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WISHED, TO ARRANGE INFORMAL CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN TURKISH-CYPRIOT AND AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERTS EITHER IN US OR WESTERN EUROPE SOME TIME THIS SUMMER. EXHCNAGE WOULD BE WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON EITHER SIDE, AND COULD BE UNDERTAKEN EITHER ON BILATERAL BASIS OR IN CONCERT WITH TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

5. CHELIK SEEMED SURPRISED AND PLEASED BY PRESENTATION. HIS PLEASURE INCREASED WHEN HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS IDEA WITH TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND WAS INFORMED THAT WE HAD NOT AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO LEAVE SUCH CONSULTATIONS UP TO TURKISH-CYPRIOTS. CHELIK SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS US SUGGESTION WITH DENKTASH PERSONALLY WHEN HE RETURNED TO CYPRUS THIS WEEKEND, AND WOULD RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH US EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. CHELIK INDICATED THAT REGARDLESS OF HOW MATTER WAS RESOLVED, HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR US OFFER.

6. AFTER DISCUSSING CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, CHELIK SAID HE THOUGHT MUTUAL CONFIDENCE COULD ALSO BE

FURTHERED THROUGH PRACTICAL STEPS IN THE ECONOMIC
FIELD. ONE POSSIBILITY WAS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON
CYPRUS TO HANDLE THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. CHELIK
ALSO THOUGHT SOME ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT ON
THE NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS DID NOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY OF PROGRESS
IN THESE AREAS, BUT THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE
SIGHT OF OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES -- RESOLUTION OF THE
KEY CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES IN 1977.
LEONARD

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